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CLERGYMEN URGE PERSECUTION

We learn from papers published in Stockholm, Sweden, that a committee appointed by the Augustana Synod to make representations to the Swedish government regarding the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has done so. In the name of 200,000 Swedish-Americans—members of the Augustana Synod, we presume—the committee has sent a letter to the government containing what purports to be an account of the history of the Church, its count of the members of the Church, its doctrines, and present status in the United States. The letter ends with the expressed view that "Mormonism" is a danger to the family, the church, and the government, and that the 70 missionaries in Sweden ought to be expelled from the country.

The committee consisted of four clergymen, all ex-missionaries to Utah, and we venture the guess that the entire plan was laid and hatched by them, and that they obtained the endorsement of the Synod merely to lift it to a level of respectability far above the standing of their own names. The majority of the 200,000 members of the Augustana Synod, it is safe to say, know absolutely nothing of the subject, and the four ex-missionaries to Utah are the only authority for the statements in the letter.

But to anyone acquainted with ecclesiastical history and the controversies of sects, or with any experience at all in the field of religious polemics, it is unnecessary to point out that you cannot accept as true what clergymen have to say of those who do not follow them. Religious prejudices blind them. Facts of history appear distorted to their view. Doctrines seem absurd, no matter how true. Motives seem to be bad, no matter how pure. Such are the effects of religious prejudices. Let, for instance, a Catholic scholar tell the story of the life of Luther. Then read the same story as written by a Lutheran scholar. Let a Catholic theologian state the doctrines of the Lutherans. Then listen to them as expounded by a Lutheran divine. Anyone who will try this experiment will find how futile it would be to credit the statements of opponents concerning each other. And so we are not surprised to learn that these four clergymen are making false and ridiculous representations concerning a church they hate.

But we are somewhat surprised that they recommend expulsion; not because we do not expect Lutheran clergymen to endorse persecution; on the contrary, we expect nothing else from them; ever since the day of Augustine, gentlemen of the cloth have advocated compulsion in religion; but we had a right to suppose that preachers who call themselves Swedish-Americans would have enough of the American spirit not to advocate the employment of the arm of a secular government in their warfare for what they hold to be truth. We had also a right to suppose that, if they had common sense, they would pause a moment and reflect, and ask the question, What can be gained by the expulsion of the Elders from any country? The first missionaries who came to Sweden were expelled. But what did the state church gain by that measure? Absolutely nothing. Other missionaries came, and through persecution they found sympathy and friends. Elders have been expelled from Germany, but that has not ended the work there. These things the clergymen would have considered, if they had been endowed by even an ordinary measure of common sense. But they seem to be lacking in this respect, and so they make a series of false accusations, and then urge persecution.

According to the report in "Aftonbladet," the ministers complain because the President of the Church "is engaged in a multitude of varying business enterprises" and besides is the "beneficiary annually of tithes from all Mormons in the whole world."

As for the first of these statements, whose business is it if the stockholders of various corporations want the President associated with them in their respective enterprises? In these corporations both "Mormons" and non-"Mormons" are interested, and if they have confidence in President Smith, as all who know him have, and want the benefit of his business ability, his counsel, and his influence, no one should find fault with that. As to the second assertion that he is a beneficiary of the tithing funds, that is absolutely untrue. The tithing is used for educational, benevolent, and missionary purposes. But even if part of it were used for personal expenses, it is no unusual thing for Lutheran clergymen to receive a salary, which in the case of a bishop and archbishop is high enough, and out of all proportion to the services rendered, and we do not see how the committee can consistently complain on that score.

The ministers, further, feel sore because President Smith was treated with courtesy during his visit to Sweden. That is rather strange. But we can leave that question. President Smith commands respect wherever he goes, among men of pure character. Even during the long Congressional investigation he won the respect of the great men of this Nation, with whom he came in contact.

In order to make "Mormonism" ridiculous, the clerical committee states in their own way some of the doctrines of the Church. It seems to us, however, that clergymen who believe that

sprinkling rescues pure, innocent infants from the clutches of Satan; or who teach consubstantiation by which believers eat and drink the flesh and blood of the Saviour; or in eternal torment in fire and smoke of people who have never had a chance of hearing the gospel, ought to be careful in their judgment of the beliefs and teachings of others, lest they be found to ridicule that which they know not, and thereby disclose their own ignorance.

Salt Lake City, the clergymen further say, is a veritable Sodom where more than 600 persons live by prostitution. That is probably true. But how can the "Mormons" be held responsible for that? We have fought the institution by all legitimate means at our disposal, but it is endorsed by an "American" mayor, and the "American" administration has been upheld by non-"Mormon" interests. The "American" organ has even advocated saloons and brothels as powerful agencies of liberty.

The conflicts between the "Mormons" and non-"Mormons" is largely one of social purity, in which opponents of the Church have arrayed themselves on the side of institutionalized vice. Let all the world know the truth, awful though it appears in the light of the professions of the anti-"Mormons."

In the letter of the clergymen there is some rot about patriarchal blessings and the temple service, and it has the usual statement that "polygamy is still practiced in Utah," though—and this the writers add by way of caution—they cannot prove it. The truth is that polygamy is not practiced in Utah any more than it is in any other state of the Union.

The clerical traducers of the Church have simply served up a dish of anti-"Mormon" hash such as has been offered in this country and rejected each time it has been subjected to proper analysis. We have no doubt it will meet the same fate in Sweden. The Swedish King has proved himself a worthy son and successor of his illustrious father, who so far as was in his power, saw to it that religious liberty was enjoyed by the Swedish people. We are confident that the Swedish government will not condemn "Mormons" without a hearing on the accusation of clergymen whose bigotry far exceeds their education, their spirituality or their brotherly love. We feel confident that the Swedish people who are far ahead of some of their laws, will demand a fair and square deal. The people will admit that clergymen who would not be entrusted with the pulpit in the poorest church in Sweden, are not fit judges of the doctrines of any church.

LLOYD GEORGE'S PROGRAM.

The dissolution of the British parliament within one year after the last election, is for the purpose of ascertaining the views of the electors upon the proposed limitation of the prerogatives of the House of Lords.

The campaign that will be waged there will no doubt be a remarkable one. If the Liberals win again, it will be an epoch-making victory. If the Conservatives win, the English upper house will contain much as at present, with the power to veto the measures of the Commons, the popular and elective branch of the law-making body.

The questions at issue will include more than the mere reform of the House of Lords. In a recent speech in London, Mr. Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated that of the 420,000 adults who died last year in the British Isles, five-sixths were in poverty. They left no property worth any one's while to pick up, says the Chancellor—a few articles of cheap clothing and furniture which the broker's man would not sell for rent.

The other sixth of the British adults who died in the twelve month period left \$1,500,000,000, or three hundred millions of pounds sterling in property of one kind and another. Of that large, gigantic surplus, approximately one-half—\$750,000,000—had been accumulated by 2,000 persons.

The Chancellor then proceeded to comment upon these statistics:

"Did the 350,000 who died in penury lead lives of indulgence, dissipation, thriftlessness and extravagance? Did the 2,000 people who left half that enormous sum pursue careers of arduous toil, of frugality of industry? No! It is facts such as these—the gigantic wealth at one end that a man cannot spend in a lifetime of luxury, and at the other end millions burning with semi-hunger and the pangs of anxiety and poverty—which are producing the murmurs at the heart of England which show there is some disease in the system."

Mr. George remarked further that England's annual bills for armaments—\$250,000,000—means a tax of \$40 for every household in the United Kingdom.

Were this burden removed, says the Chancellor, Great Britain could afford to pay every wage earner in the Kingdom an additional 4 shillings a week.

The Chancellor is at the head of that movement in English politics which is seeking to break up the great land holdings of the aristocracy and establish a sort of peasant proprietorship, something like that in France. One remedy he proposes for unemployment is small farming.

This key-note speech undoubtedly reveals something of the great underlying reasons for the attempt to curb the powers of the upper house. Mr. George's candor is remarkable. He clearly reveals what it is he is attempting to do. As with the land tax, which he so recently carried through against the opposition of the peers of the realm, so with the general situation as to poverty and unemployment, he plainly proposes to make the wealth and property of the country bear a larger proportion than hitherto of the national expenses.

GOOD RESULTS OBTAINED.

A special dispatch to the New York Herald from Raleigh, N. C., gives new evidence on the question of the influence of the saloon upon the general moral status of the people. The dispatch states that in the opinion of Chief Justice Walter Clark of the North Carolina Supreme court, the closing of the liquor shops has reduced crime in the State fifty per cent. Others consider the figures conservative.

lacks with deadly weapon thirty per cent, larceny forty per cent, manslaughter thirty-five per cent, murder in second degree twenty-one per cent, minor crimes from twenty-five to fifty-five per cent.

Justice Clark has prepared a five year comparison which shows that some crimes have decreased more than sixty per cent since saloons have vanished. In five years there have only been two lynchings in the State and none in the last two years.

This is an encouraging record. Prohibitory laws may not prohibit, in the sense of preventing all law infractions. Experience amply proves this. But if they decrease crime fifty per cent, they certainly are not in vain.

Congress meets next week but can it make both ends meet?

That is called a live town where men frequently are killed in quarrels.

The bore usually begins his boring with the phrase, "Let me tell you."

He hears the voice of the people best who is deaf to the shoutings of the mob.

Manuel de Bonilla's success in Honduras is nothing more than a success of time.

What the office-seeker loves to be able to say is, it is a position and not a theory that confronts me.

"I dwell in the roar of the cosmic wheel," says poet Watson. He must have a roaring, dizzy time of it.

Mexican mustang liniment seems to have no effect in soothing the wounded feelings of the Mexican insurgents.

The accounts are so conflicting that it is hard to tell whether the race is to the swift or the battle to the strong in Mexico.

Another thing about reducing the size of the currency bills: It will make them harder to get hold of, and heaven knows that that is hard enough now.

President Taft has informed the members of his cabinet that the estimates of the departments for the coming fiscal year must be cut deep. This is one of the first results of the visit to the Culebra cut.

A contemporary says that the "coal trust is killing Utah." A state like Utah cannot be killed by any coal trust, but Utah is getting no help from it. So far as it is concerned it is "Utah and Utah's people be damned."

The Elgin, Ill., butter board, it seems, names the opening price of butter each week under farcical conditions. And yet so smooth and plausible are the butter men in explaining the ever-rising price of butter that butter won't melt in their mouths.

And now, Dr. Wiley declares that pupils in all schools should be graded in health. No doubt the world would have been much better made and would be a much better place in which to live could the doctor have been present to assist in its creation.

A man in West Virginia set up the "unwritten law" as a defense in a murder trial. He was found guilty of man slaughter and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. The "unwritten law" is the law for which everyone should have a contempt and for whose abolishment all should work.

Governor Norris of Montana hasn't much faith in the wise men of the east, especially such as attended the St. Paul conservation congress. He holds the theory that those who have failed to conserve the national resources of their own section are not competent to dictate as to the conservation of the resources of other parts of the country.

And now Colonel Whistler, commandant of the Puget Sound coast artillery, has come out for universal military service. He recommends that every able-bodied man in the country shall serve in the national guard before he shall exercise the elective franchise. What an effort is being made to impress European autocratic military ideas upon Americans. He is not a good American, an American of the type of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, who urges universal military service in the United States.

BALANCE IN AUTHORITY NEEDED

Denver Republican.

Danger to a state and the liberties of its people may arise from too minute and direct an exercise of popular authority, as well as from the usurpation of an ambitious individual seeking autocratic authority. The New Mexico constitutional convention demonstrated that it appreciated this truth more clearly by far than some other recent makers and amenders of constitutions, who have failed to recognize the wisdom of maintaining that balance of authority which is best secured through representative government.

BOSSISM NOT ELIMINATED.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

We have had all sorts of experiments with primaries. As yet the political millennium has not arrived, but many strange things have taken place, such as electing Republican Senators from Democratic states and vice versa, such as nominating people for high office who have had no experience, etc. If it is possible to reform politics by such methods, by all means let it be done, but it would be interesting to know what is the proper way. Bossism thrives under primaries as easily as under former conditions. The real reform will come only from the higher ideals on the part of individual voters.

NEW YORK STATE.

New York World.

The State of New York, with 9,113,279 inhabitants under the new census, has more people than any one of these European kingdoms: Belgium, Holland, Portugal, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Bulgaria, Servia, Roumania, Montenegro, Bavaria, Saxony or Wurttemberg. It has as many as Scotland and Ireland combined. It has twice as many as Australia, and it exceeds all Canada by at least one-third. Its population is the same as England's at the first census of that country, taken in 1801, and two and one-third times greater than that of the entire United States at our own first census, taken in 1790. New York State is more populous than any country in South America except Brazil, and it exceeds any other coun-

try in North America except Mexico. Its increase of 1,844,385 for the last decade is greater than the population of any States west of the Missouri except California, and is almost exactly equal to that of Maine and Connecticut combined. But what is still more interesting, the population of New York City exceeds by more than 400,000 the population of the rest of the State; yet the city is a minority element in the State Government.

REAL IRISH HUMOR.

Boston Herald.

People who go to Ireland expecting to find the male inhabitants of the Emerald Isle arrayed like unto the Irishman of the vaudeville stage, mounting impossible bulls, sporting green whiskers, flourishing a shilleagh must recognize the surprise of their lives when they encounter the real article, for what they behold in the Irishman on his native soil is a quiet, soft-voiced person, wearing the ordinary sober-colored garb of civilization and betraying no tendency whatever to either to batter one's brains out or do a song and dance. The Irishman with whom the vaudeville artist and the so-called comic publications have made us familiar, the "dread-tread-on-the-tail-of-my-coat" individual—I will not say he is not to be found in Ireland, but he certainly is not the chief figure in Irish life. Neither is the blustering Hardy Andy type very much in evidence, and the visitor from other lands listens in vain for those side-splitting "bulls" which he has fondly believed to be so common in the land of the shamrock.

JUST FOR FUN

December Roses.

Gladys—A girl begins to hang up her mistletoe as soon as she gets too old to hang up her stockings.

De Garry—I've noticed, though, that some girls never get too old to hang up the mistletoe.—Judge.

By One.

Blobbs—Scribbler has had no less than nine plays rejected.

Blobbs—What is he doing now?

Blobbs—Writing essays on the decline of the drama.—Philadelphia Record.

Any New Methods?

"Ain't it strange, how Kelly beats his wife?"

"I dunno. How does he do it?"—Cleveland Leader.

The Victor.

Cassidy—Harrigan was around today bragging about the 'battin' he gave Finnegan last Monday.

Casey—Last Monday? Shure, that's a week ago. 'Tis a wonder he wasn't around sooner.

Cassidy—Aye, but it seems he only recovered from it this mornin'.—Catholic Standard and Times.

What He Calls Himself.

Willie—Father, a man is always a bachelor before he gets married, isn't he?

Father—Yes, my son.

Willie—And what does he call himself afterward?

Father—I wouldn't like to tell you, my son.—Brooklyn Life.

A Knock.

Goodley—They're in reduced circumstances, of course, but their family is a very old one and proud, even if they have lots of debts. They date back to the earliest Colonial times.

Cutting—The debts, you mean? I don't doubt that.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Misunderstood.

"Alexander the Great," states the teacher, "was a very sensitive man, and wept because he could not bear defeat. What do you understand by this, Johnnie?"

"He couldn't get his shoes off, teacher."—Chicago Post.

Fate.

Why are you so pessimistic? I know you're sick, but the doctor says you'll recover. He ought to know.

"He doesn't know that my life insurance has lapsed."—Cleveland Leader.

Cost of Meat.

"The cost of meat is something terrible, when it is used to be."

The old resident—"I remember when you could get the best cuts for only 5 cents a pound."

"Huh!" boasted the middle-aged man with the dependent-looking mouth. "I remember the time when I could get the best cuts for nothing."

"When was that?" asked the suspicious old resident.

"When I was living with my father-in-law," answered the middle-aged man.—Chicago News.

The Landmark.

"Ah," said the gray-haired wayfarer at the railway refreshment room, "this is the old place. I recognized your landmark at once."

"What landmark?" inquired the barmaid, considerably.

"This line," said the stranger in a choking voice. "I carved my initials and the date on your bun. I see you have changed it to an old man's tears."—London Tri-Bits.

Causes.

Reverend Gentleman—Do you know, my friend, that half the cases of cancer are caused by people smoking those foul, dirty, short, black clay pipes?

Son of Toil—And do you know, Guv'nor, that 'alf of the black eyes are caused by folks not mindin' their own business?—Ladies' Home Journal.

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